

# A New Construction of Group and Nongroup Perfect Codes

OLOF HEDEN

*Mathematical Department, University of Stockholm, Sweden*

From two perfect 1-codes  $C'$  and  $C''$  in cartesian products  $S'$  respective  $S''$  we shall construct a perfect 1-code  $C$  in a cartesian product  $S$ . We shall show how the codes  $C'$  and  $C''$  might be chosen so that the code  $C$  will be equivalent respective not equivalent to a subgroup of  $S$ . We shall also give an example of a perfect 1-code that is not equivalent to any "Vasilev" code.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND NOTATIONS

Let  $S = S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots \times S_n$  be the cartesian product of the finite additive groups  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$  and let  $d(s, s')$  denote the distance between the elements  $s$  and  $s'$  of  $S$ , i.e.,

$$d(s, s') = |\{i \mid s_i \neq s'_i \mid s = (s_1, \dots, s_n) \ s' = (s'_1, \dots, s'_n)\}|.$$

( $|A|$  denotes the number of elements in a set  $A$ .) A subset  $C$  of  $S$  is called a perfect  $e$ -code if for any element  $s$  of  $S$  there is one and only one element  $c$  of  $C$  satisfying  $d(s, c) \leq e$ . If the number of elements in the sets  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$  are not equal then a perfect code might be called a mixed perfect code.

We shall call a map  $\pi$  from  $S$  to  $S$  an equivalence of  $S$  if  $\pi((s_1, \dots, s_n)) = (\pi_1(s_{i_1}), \dots, \pi_n(s_{i_n}))$  where  $(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  is a permutation of  $(1, 2, \dots, n)$  satisfying  $|S_{i_k}| = |S_k|$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n$  are permutation of  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  respective. Two subsets  $D$  and  $D'$  of  $S$  are said to be equivalent if  $\pi(D) = D'$  where  $\pi$  is an equivalence of  $S$ .

In this paper, we shall from two given perfect 1-codes  $C'$  and  $C''$  in cartesian products  $S'$  respective  $S''$ , construct a perfect 1-code  $C$  in a cartesian product  $S$ . We shall show how the codes  $C'$  and  $C''$  might be chosen so that the code  $C$  will be equivalent respective not equivalent to a subgroup of  $S$ . Perfect 1-codes not equivalent to subgroups of  $S$  are constructed in Vasilev (1962). Vasilev's construction has been generalized in Schönheim (1968) and Lindström (1969). But we shall give an example of a perfect 1-code that is not equivalent to any perfect 1-code constructed as in Vasilev (1962). We shall also discuss an example in Herzog and Schönheim (1971) concerning nongroup mixed perfect 1-codes and give a less trivial example of a mixed perfect 1-code that is not equivalent to any subgroup of  $S$ .

Since we only consider perfect 1-codes we shall often omit the prefix 1- in perfect 1-codes.

We need some further notations and definitions.

By the sum  $A + B$  of two subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of an additive group  $S$  we shall mean the set of elements  $a + b$  where  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ .

A period of a subset  $A$  of an additive group  $S$  is an element  $g$  of  $S$  satisfying

$$g + A = A.$$

If  $I$  is any ordered set,  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$  where  $i_1 < \dots < i_n$  and if there are sets  $S_{i_1}, \dots, S_{i_n}$  then by  $S(I)$  we shall mean the cartesian product

$$S(I) = S_{i_1} \times \dots \times S_{i_n}.$$

If  $I'$  is a subset of  $I$  and  $c$  an element of  $S(I)$  then

$$c_{I'} = (c_{i'_1}, \dots, c_{i'_k}) \quad \text{where } I' = \{i'_1, \dots, i'_k\} \text{ and } i'_1 < \dots < i'_k.$$

If  $i \in I$  then we shall write  $c_i$  instead of  $c_{\{i\}}$ .

Let  $I'$  be a subset of  $I$ .  $\iota$  will always mean the map from  $S(I')$  to  $S(I)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (\iota(c))_i &= c_i & \text{if } i \in I', \\ &= 0 & \text{if } i \in I \setminus I'. \end{aligned}$$

If  $s, s' \in I$  and  $I'$  is a subset of  $I$  then by the distance in  $I'$  between  $s$  and  $s'$  we shall mean

$$d_{I'}(s, s') = |\{i \in I' \mid s_i \neq s'_i\}|.$$

The weight in  $I'$  of an element  $s$  of  $S(I)$  is defined by

$$w_{I'}(s) = d_{I'}(s, \bar{0}) \quad \text{where } \bar{0} = (0, \dots, 0).$$

The set

$$S_I(\bar{0}, e) = \{s \in S(I) \mid w(s) \leq e\}$$

will be called a sphere of radius  $e$  and center  $\bar{0}$ .

Finally, by  $G^r(p)$  we shall mean the elementary abelian group of order  $p^r$  and type  $(p, \dots, p)$  for a prime  $p$ .

## 2. TWO THEOREMS

Consider the perfect code  $C'$  in  $S' = G^2(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2)$  consisting of the elements

$$\begin{aligned} (0, 0, 0, 0, 0), (\alpha, 1, 0, 1, 0), (\beta, 1, 1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0, 0, 1), \\ (0, 1, 1, 1, 1), (\alpha, 0, 1, 0, 1), (\beta, 0, 0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1, 1, 0), \end{aligned}$$

$(G^2(2) = \{0, \alpha, \beta, 1\})$  and the perfect code  $C''$  in  $S'' = G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2)$  consisting of the elements  $(0, 0, 0)$  and  $(1, 1, 1)$ . Let  $v$  denote any element of  $G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2)$  and let  $p$  be the map from  $S''$  to  $S = G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2) \times G(2)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} p(0, v) &= (0, 0, 0, v) & p(\alpha, v) &= (1, 0, 0, v) \\ p(\beta, v) &= (0, 1, 0, v) & p(1, v) &= (0, 0, 1, v) \end{aligned}$$

and let  $\iota$  denote the map from  $S''$  to  $S$  defined by

$$\iota(u) = (u, \bar{0}) \quad \text{if } u \in S'' \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{0} = (0, 0, 0, 0).$$

It is easy to verify that the subset

$$C = p(C'') + \iota(C'')$$

of  $S$  is a perfect 1-code in  $S$ . Actually it is possible to prove the following theorem.

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose that  $I_1 \cap I_2 = \emptyset$ , that the sets  $S_i$   $i \in I_1 \cup I_2$  are additive groups and that  $|S_{i_0}| = |S_{I_2}(0, 1)|$  where  $i_0$  is an element of  $I_1$ . Let  $p$  be an injective map from  $S(I_1)$  to  $S(I)$  where  $I = I_2 \cup I_1 \setminus \{i_0\}$  satisfying*

$$p(c)_{I \setminus I_2} = c_{I_1 \setminus \{i_0\}} \quad \text{if } c \in S(I_1) \text{ and } p(\iota(c)) \in S_{I_2}(0, 1) \text{ if } C \in S_{i_0}. \quad (1)$$

*If  $C'$  and  $C''$  are perfect 1-codes in  $S(I_1)$  resp.  $S(I_2)$  then*

$$C = p(C') + \iota(C'')$$

*is a perfect 1-code in  $S(I)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $C'$  and  $C''$  are perfect codes. Let  $c$  and  $c'$  be any elements of  $C'$ ,  $d$  and  $d'$  be any elements of  $C''$  and let

$$k = d(p(c) + \iota(d), p(c') + \iota(d')).$$

We shall prove that  $k = 0$  or  $k \geq 3$ . Consider the following four cases.

*Case 1.* If  $c = c'$  and  $d = d'$ , then trivially  $k = 0$ .

*Case 2.* If  $c = c'$  and  $d \neq d'$ , then, since  $C''$  is a perfect code,  $k \geq 3$ .

*Case 3.* If  $c \neq c'$  and  $d = d'$ , then from (1) and since  $C'$  is a perfect code we deduce that  $k \geq 3$ .

*Case 4.* If  $c \neq c'$  and  $d \neq d'$ , then  $d_{I \setminus I_2}(p(c), p(c')) \geq 2$ ,  $d_{I_2}(p(c), p(c')) \leq 2$ , and  $d_{I_2}(d, d') \geq 3$ . Consequently  $k \geq 2 + (3 - 2) = 3$ .

Note that we have proved that  $k = 0$  if and only if  $c = c'$  and  $d = d'$ . Consequently

$$|C| = |C'| + |C''|. \quad (2)$$

It is an easy and well-known consequence of the definition of perfect  $e$ -code that

$$\text{If } D \text{ is a perfect } e\text{-code in } S(I), \text{ then } |D| + |S_I(\bar{0}, e)| = |S(I)|. \quad (3)$$

Now, by (2), (3) and the equalities  $|S_{I_1}(0, 1)| = |S_I(0, 1)|$  and  $|S_{I_2}(0, 1)| = |S_{i_0}|$ ,

$$|C| + |S_I(0, 1)| = |C'| + |C''| + |S_{I_1}(0, 1)| = |S(I_1)| + |S(I_2)| + |S_{I_2}(0, 1)| = |S(I)|.$$

Since  $C$  obviously satisfies the necessary condition (3) for being a perfect code and since the minimum distance between any two elements of  $C$  is three it is now easy to see that  $C$  is a perfect code.

Unfortunately it is not so easy to use Theorem 1 to construct perfect codes in cartesian products  $S(I)$  where the numbers  $|S_i|$   $i \in I$  are not powers of the same prime. Then as a consequence of that the numbers  $S_i$   $i \in I_1 \cup I_2$  could not be powers of a prime and perfect codes in such cartesian products are not known by the author.

Note that the construction of perfect codes given in Theorem 1 might be seen as a generalization of the construction given by a combination of Theorem 1 and the proof of Lemma 4 in Herzog and Schönheim (1972). But in our construction we can, if  $p$  is given, choose any perfect codes  $C'$  and  $C''$  in  $S(I_1)$  respective  $S(I_2)$ ,  $C$  will always be a perfect code in  $S(I)$ . Of course some of the codes might not be equivalent. The following theorem gives, when  $C'$  is a subgroup of  $S(I_1)$ , under certain conditions on the sets  $S_i$ , a necessary and sufficient condition on  $C''$  so that  $C$  should be equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$ .

**THEOREM 2.** *Suppose in addition to the assumptions in Theorem 1 that  $|I_1| > 1$ ,  $S_i \subset S_{i_0}$  for  $i \in I_2$ ,  $S_{i_0} = \bigcup_{i \in I_2} S_i$ ,  $S_i \cap S_j = \{0\}$  if  $i \neq j$ ,  $i, j \in I_2$  and that*

$$\begin{aligned} (p(s_i))_i &= s_{i_0} & \text{if } s_{i_0} \in S_i, \\ &= 0 & \text{if } s_{i_0} \notin S_i. \end{aligned}$$

*Let  $h$  be the map from  $S(I_2)$  to  $S_{i_0}$  defined by*

$$h(s) = \sum_{i \in I_2} s_i.$$

*If  $C'$  is a perfect 1-code and a subgroup of  $S(I_1)$ ,  $C''$  a perfect 1-code in  $S(I_2)$ , then the perfect 1-code*

$$C = p(C') + \iota(C'')$$

is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$  if and only if

$$C'' = s + \ker h \quad (4)$$

where  $s \in S(I_2)$  and  $\ker h$  is the kernel of  $h$ .

Note that in Herzog and Schönheim (1971) it was proved that  $\ker h$  always is a perfect code. We need two lemmas in the proof of Theorem 2.

LEMMA 1. Suppose in addition to the assumptions in Theorem 1 that  $\bar{0} \in C'$  and  $\bar{0} \in C''$ . Let  $s$  be an element of  $S(I)$ .

- (i) If  $w_{I_2}(s) = w_{I \setminus I_2}(s) = 1$ , then  $d(p(c), s) = 1$  for an element  $c$  of  $C'$ .
- (ii) If  $s \in C$  and  $w_{I_2}(s) \in 1$ , then  $s = p(c)$  for an element  $c$  of  $C'$ .

*Proof.* We shall only prove (i). The proof of (ii) is similar. Since  $w_{I_2}(s) = 1$  we deduce that  $w(s') = 2$  and  $p(s') = s$  for an element  $s'$  of  $S(I_1)$ . Since  $C'$  is a perfect code and since  $\bar{0} \in C'$ , there is  $c \in C'$ ,  $w(c) = 3$ ,  $d_{I_1}(c, s') = 1$  and  $c_{i_0} = s'_{i_0}$ . Since  $p$  satisfies (1) we deduce that  $d(p(c), s) = 1$ .

LEMMA 2. Suppose that  $D$  is a subset of  $S(I)$  where the sets  $S_i$   $i \in I$  are additive groups and that  $D$  contains the element  $\bar{0} = (0, \dots, 0)$ . If  $D$  is equivalent to a subgroup  $D'$  of  $S(I)$ , then  $\pi(D) = D'$  for an equivalence  $\pi$  of  $S(I)$  satisfying  $\pi(\bar{0}) = \bar{0}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\pi'$  is an equivalence of  $S(I)$  and that  $\pi'(D)$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$ . Let  $\pi$  denote the permutation of  $S(I)$  defined by

$$\pi(s) = \pi'(s) - \pi'(0) \quad s \in S(I).$$

Then  $\pi(D) = \pi'(D)$  since  $\pi'(D)$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$  and  $\bar{0} \in D$ . Addition of a given element in  $S(I)$  is always an equivalence, consequently  $\pi$  is an equivalence and the lemma is proved.

*Proof of Theorem 2.* We first show that if  $C'' = \ker h$ , then  $C$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$ . Let  $c$  and  $c'$  be any two elements of  $C'$ . It follows from the definition of  $p$  and  $h$  that

$$p(c_{i_0} + c'_{i_0}) - p(c_{i_0}) - p(c'_{i_0}) \in \ker h.$$

Consequently

$$p(c) + p(c') - p(c + c') \in \iota(C'').$$

It is now easy to verify, since  $C'$  and  $C''$  are subgroups of  $S(I_1)$  respective  $S(I_2)$ , that  $C$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$ .

Now suppose that  $C''$  satisfies (4). Addition of  $-u(s)$  to every element of  $S(I)$  gives an equivalence  $\pi$  of  $S(I)$ . But, since  $w_{I \setminus I_2}(s) = 0$ ,

$$\pi(p(C') - u(C'')) = p(C') + \ker h.$$

Consequently,  $p(C') + u(C'')$  is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$ .

Now we shall show that if  $C$  is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$ , then (4) is true.

First consider the special case when  $\bar{0} \in C''$ . Suppose that  $C$  is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$  and that  $C'' = \ker h$ . It follows from Lemma 2 that there is an equivalence  $\pi$  of  $S(I)$ ,  $\pi(C)$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$  and

$$(\pi(s))_i = \pi_i(s_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_i(0) = 0 \quad \text{for } i \in I \text{ and } s \in S(I) \quad (5)$$

where  $\pi_i$  are permutations of  $S_i$  for  $i \in I$ . Let  $c$  be any element of  $C'' \setminus \ker h$ . Since  $\ker h$  is a perfect code,  $d(c, c') = 1$  for an element  $c'$  of  $\ker h$ . Suppose that  $c = \sum_{j \in J} u(c_j)$ ,  $c' = \sum_{j \in J'} u(c'_j)$  where  $J$  and  $J'$  are subsets of  $I_2$ , (and the elements  $c_j$  and  $c'_j$  are nonzero elements of  $S_j$  for  $j \in J$  respective  $j \in J'$ ). There are three possible cases.

*Case 1.*  $J = J'$ ,  $c_j = c'_j$  for  $j \in J \setminus \{j_0\}$  and  $c_{j_0} \neq c'_{j_0}$  where  $j_0 \in J$ .

*Case 2.*  $J \subset J'$ ,  $|J| + 1 = |J'|$ , and  $c_j = c'_j$  if  $j \in J$ .

*Case 3.*  $J \supset J'$ ,  $|J'| + 1 = |J|$ , and  $c_j = c'_j$  if  $j \in J'$ .

We shall show that Case 2 contradicts the assumptions on  $C$  and  $C''$ . With the same argument it is possible to show that Cases 1 and 3 also gives a contradiction.

Let  $a$  be a nonzero element of  $S_{i_1}$  where  $i_1 \in I \setminus I_2$  (exists since  $|I_1| > 1$ ). By Lemma 1 there is for any  $\nu \in J'$

$$a^{(\nu)} = u(a) + u(b_{i_\nu}) + u(c'_\nu) \in p(C')$$

where  $i_\nu \in I \setminus (I_2 \cup \{i_1\})$  and  $b_{i_\nu}$  is a nonzero element of  $S_{i_\nu}$ . Since the distance between any two elements of  $C'$  is greater then or equal to three and since  $p^{-1}(a^{(\nu)}) \in C'$

$$i_\nu = i_{\nu'} \quad \text{if } \nu \neq \nu'. \quad (6)$$

$C'$  is a subgroup of  $S(I_1)$ , consequently  $p(\sum_{\nu \in J'} p^{-1}(a^{(\nu)}))$  belongs to the set  $p(C')$  that is

$$|J'| u(a) + \sum_{\nu \in J'} u(b_{i_\nu}) + p\left(\sum_{\nu \in J'} c'_\nu\right) \in p(C').$$

But, since  $c'$  is an element of  $\ker h$ ,  $\sum_{\nu \in J'} c'_\nu = 0$ . Consequently, since  $\bar{0} \in C''$ ,

$$a' = |J'| u(a) + \sum_{\nu \in J'} u(b_{i_\nu}) \in C. \quad (7)$$

Now, since  $\pi(C)$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$ ,

$$\sum_{v \in J'} \pi(a^{(v)}) - \pi(a') - \pi(c) \in \pi(C). \quad (8)$$

Let  $u$  be the element of  $J' \setminus J$ . It follows from (5), (6), (7), and (8) that

$$a'' = |J'| \pi(u(a)) - \pi(|J'| u(a)) + \pi(u(c_u')) \in \pi(C).$$

But since  $w(a'') \leq 2$  and since  $\bar{0} \in \pi(C)$ , we conclude that  $a'' = 0$ . Consequently  $c_u' = 0$ , which is a contradiction.

Now to the general case. Suppose that  $C$  is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$ . Let  $c$  be any element of  $C''$ . If we add  $-u(c)$  to every element of  $S(I)$ , then we get an equivalence  $\pi$  of  $S(I)$ . But, since  $w_{I \setminus J_2}(u(c)) = 0$ ,

$$\pi(C) = p(C') + u(C'' - c).$$

Since the set of equivalences is a group,  $\pi(C)$  is equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I)$ . But, since  $\bar{0} \in C'' - c$ , it now follows from what we already have proved that  $C'' - c = \ker h$  and the proof of Theorem 2 is complete.

### 3. TWO EXAMPLES

It follows from Theorem 3 in Lindström (1975) that if some of the groups  $S_i$ ,  $i \in I$  are not isomorphic to  $G^r(p)$  for a prime  $p$ , then a perfect code never can be a subgroup of  $S(I)$ . Consequently, it is possible to construct perfect codes not equivalent to subgroups of  $S(I)$  simply by substituting one of the groups  $S_i$  with a group  $S_i'$  of different group structure but with the same number of elements. This method was used in Example 2 of Herzog and Schönheim (1971). By Theorem 2 in this paper we do not have to use that trick to construct perfect codes not equivalent to subgroups as shown in the following example.

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $I_2 = \{1, 2, \dots, 7\}$  and  $S_i \cong G(2)$  for  $i \in I_2$ . Consider the subgroup  $C''$  of  $S(I_2)$  generated by

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0), & \quad (1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0), \\ (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1), & \quad (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that  $C''$  is a perfect code. We shall also consider the subgroup  $\pi(C'')$  of  $S(I_2)$  generated by

$$\begin{aligned} (0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0), & \quad (0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0), \\ (1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1), & \quad (0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1), \end{aligned}$$

obtained from  $C''$  by a permutation  $\pi$  of  $I_2$ .

By Theorem 2 in Lindström (1975) there is a group  $S_{i_0}$ ,  $S_i \subset S_{i_0}$  if  $i \in I_2$ ,  $S_{i_0} = \bigcup_{i \in I_2} S_i$ ,  $S_i \cap S_j = \{0\}$  if  $i \neq j$  and a map  $h$  from  $S(I_2)$  to  $S_{i_0}$ ,  $h(s) = \sum_{i \in I_2} s_i$  and  $C'' = \ker h$ . By Lemma 1 in Herzog and Schönheim (1972),  $S_{i_0} \cong G^3(2)$ .

Assume that  $i_0 \in I_1$ ,  $S_i \cong G^3(2)$  if  $i \in I_1$  and that  $|I_1| = 9$ . Let  $C$  denote the Hamming code in  $S(I_1)$ , cf. van Lint (1971, p. 22). Consider the subset

$$C = p(C'') + \iota(\pi(C'')) \quad (p \text{ as in Theorem 2})$$

of  $S(I_2 \cup I_1 \setminus \{i_0\})$ . It is easy to control that there is no  $s \in S(I_2)$  satisfying  $\pi(C'') = s + C''$ . Consequently, by Theorem 2,  $C$  is not equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I_2 \cup I_1 \setminus \{i_0\})$ .

Now we shall compare the construction of perfect codes given by Theorem 1 and the construction of perfect codes in Vasilev (1962). First we give Vasilev's construction.

Suppose that  $S_i \cong G(2)$  for  $i \in \{1\} \cup I \cup I'$  where  $I = \{2, \dots, n\}$  and  $I' = \{n+1, \dots, 2n-1\}$ . Let  $C$  be a perfect code in  $S(I)$  and  $\tau$  any map from  $S(I)$  to  $S_1$ . Let  $\sigma$  be the map  $\sigma(s) = \sum_{i \in I'} s_i$  from  $S(I')$  to  $S_1$ . Then the set

$$C_\tau = \{(\tau(c) + \sigma(s), c + s, s) \mid s \in S(I'), c \in C\}$$

is a perfect code. It is easy to see that by a suitable choice of  $\tau$ ,  $C_\tau$  will not be equivalent to a subgroup of  $S(I \cup I' \cup \{1\})$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $C_\tau$  be defined as above. Suppose that  $0 \in C$  and that  $\tau(0) = 0$ . If  $c \in C_\tau$ ,  $c_1 = 1$ , and  $w(c) = 3$ , then  $c$  is a period of  $C_\tau$ .*

*Proof.* If  $c$  is any element of  $C_\tau$  of weight 3 and with  $c_1 = 1$ , then  $w_I(c) = w_{I'}(c) = 1$ . It easily follows from Vasilev's construction that any such element must be a period.

**PROPOSITION 2** (notations from Theorem 2). *Suppose that  $\pi$  is an equivalence of  $S(I_2)$  satisfying*

$$\text{if } c \in \pi(\ker h) \cap \ker h \quad \text{then } w(c) \neq 3. \quad (9)$$

*If  $i$  is any element of  $I$  then there is  $c \in p(C') + \iota(\pi(\ker h))$ ,  $w(c) = 3$ ,  $c_i = 0$ , and  $c$  is not a period of  $p(C') + \iota(\pi(\ker h))$ .*

*Proof.* We only consider the case when  $i \in I_2$ . If  $i \in I \setminus I_2$  the proof is similar. So suppose that  $i \in I_2$ . Let  $C$  denote the code  $p(C') + \iota(\ker h)$  and  $C^\pi$  denote the code  $p(C') + \iota(\pi(\ker h))$ . By (9), since  $\ker h$  and  $\pi(\ker h)$  are perfect codes, there exists  $j \in I_2$  and elements  $c$  and  $c^\pi$  of  $\ker h$  respective  $\pi(\ker h)$  satisfying

$$w(c) = w(c^\pi) = 3, \quad c_i = c_j = c_i^\pi = c_j^\pi = -1, \quad \text{and} \quad c \neq c^\pi.$$



By Lemma 1, there exists elements  $c^{(i)}$  and  $c^{(j)}$  of  $C'$ ,  $(p(c^{(v)}))_v = 1$  if  $v = i$  or  $j$  and  $w(c^{(i)}) = w(c^{(j)}) = 3$ . But, since  $C$  is a subgroup of  $S(I)$ ,

$$s = p(c^{(i)}) + p(c^{(j)}) + c \in C.$$

Now, since  $w_{I_2}(s) = 1$ , it follows from Lemma 1 that  $s = p(c'')$  for an element  $c''$  of  $C'$ . Consequently  $s$  also belongs to  $C^\pi$ . If  $p(c^{(i)})$  should be a period of  $C^\pi$  then

$$s^\pi = p(c^{(i)}) + (p(c^{(j)}) + u(c^\pi)) \in C^\pi.$$

But this is impossible since  $d(s, s^\pi) = 2$ . The proposition is consequently proved, since  $p(c^{(i)})$  is not a period of  $C^\pi$ .

These two propositions will make it easy for us to construct perfect codes not equivalent to any "Vasilev" code.

EXAMPLE 2. Let  $C''$  and  $\pi(C'')$  be as in Example 1. Let  $C'$  be a perfect code and a subgroup of  $S(I_1)$  where  $|I_1| = 9$ ,  $i_0 \in I_1$ ,  $S_{i_0} \cong G^3(2)$ ,  $S_i \cong G(2)$  for  $i \in I_1 \setminus \{i_0\}$  and  $I_1 \cap I_2 = \emptyset$ . For the existence of such a code see e.g. Herzog and Schönheim (1972). Consider the code

$$C^\pi = p(C') + u(\pi(C'')).$$

As in Example 1,  $C'' = \ker h$  for a suitable map  $h$  from  $S_{i_0}$  to  $S(I_2)$ . It is easy to verify, for instance by inspection, that  $\pi(C'') \cap C'' = \{\bar{0}\}$ .

Now consider the group of periods  $G^\pi$  and  $G_\tau$  for  $C^\pi$  and a "Vasilev" code  $C_\tau$  in  $S(I)$  where  $I = I_2 \cup I_1 \setminus \{i_0\}$ ,  $\tau(\bar{0}) = 0$ , and  $\bar{0} \in C$ . Suppose that  $\pi'(C^\pi) = C_\tau$  for an equivalence  $\pi'$  of  $S(I)$ . Since  $S_i \cong G(2)$  for  $i \in I$  we easily deduce that  $\pi' = \pi_0 \circ \pi_1$  where  $\pi_0$  and  $\pi_1$  are equivalences of  $S(I)$ ,  $\pi_0$  is a permutation of  $I$  and  $\pi_1$  is addition of an element  $s$  of  $S(I)$ . If  $g \in G$  then  $g$  is a period of  $s + C^\pi$ . Also if  $g$  is a period of a set  $D$  then  $\pi_0(g)$  is a period of  $\pi_0(D)$ . Consequently, since  $\pi'^{-1} = \pi_1^{-1} \circ \pi_0^{-1}$ ,  $\pi_0(G^\pi) = G_\tau$ .

By Proposition 1 and since  $\pi_0$  is a permutation of  $I$ ,  $\{c \in C^\pi \mid c_i = 1 \text{ } w(c) = 3\} \subset G^\pi$  for at least one element  $i$  of  $I$ , which contradicts Proposition 2.

As any "Vasilev" code is equivalent with a  $C_\tau$  where  $\tau(\bar{0}) = 0$  and  $\bar{0} \in C$ , we conclude, since the set of equivalences is a group, that  $C^\pi$  is not equivalent to any "Vasilev" code.

RECEIVED: September 25, 1975; REVISED: September 13, 1976

#### REFERENCES

HERZOG, M., AND SCHÖNHEIM, J. (1971), Linear and nonlinear single-error-correcting perfect mixed codes, *Inform. Contr.* 18, 364-368.

- HERZOG, M., AND SCHÖNHEIM, J. (1972), Group partition, factorization and the vector covering problem, *Canad. Math. Bull.* **15** (2), 207–214.
- LINDSTRÖM, B. (1969), On group and nongroup perfect codes in  $q$  symbols, *Math. Scand.* **25**, 149–158.
- LINDSTRÖM, B. (1975), Group partitions and mixed perfect codes, *Canad. Math. Bull.* **18** (1), 57–60.
- VAN LINT, J. H. (1971), "Coding Theory," Lecture Notes in Mathematics No. 201, Springer-Verlag, Berlin.
- SCHÖNHEIM, J. (1968), On linear and nonlinear single-error-correcting  $q$ -nary perfect codes, *Inform. Contr.* **12**, 23–26.
- VASILEV, JU. L. (1962), On non-group closed-packed codes, *Probl. Kibernet.* **8**, 337–339 (in Russian); Translation in *Problemy Kybernit.* **8** (1965), 375–378.